

Bill will provide health care to more than 10 million children

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Charlie Wilson (D-OH) joined a majority in the House of Representatives in support of bipartisan legislation, which reflects a House-Senate compromise, to provide health care to more than 10 million low-income children. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act was approved by a vote of 265-159. The legislation now heads to the President's desk.

"Children in rural areas, like much of Ohio's Sixth District, depend on Medicaid or CHIP for health insurance more than children in urban areas," Wilson said. "That's just one of the reasons I'm so pleased we were able to pass this important legislation."

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was created in 1997 to provide health care coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. This bill simply gives states the resources and incentives necessary to reach millions of uninsured children who are currently eligible but not enrolled in CHIP.

This bipartisan bill reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years and preserves the coverage for all 6.6 million children currently covered by CHIP, including preserving the coverage of 216,495 children in Ohio.

The bill also extends health care coverage to 3.8 million additional low-income children, who are currently uninsured, including extending coverage to 122,000 uninsured children in Ohio.

"Everyone deserves quality healthcare in this country," Wilson said. "I'm so proud this legislation takes on the task of guaranteeing that insurance is attainable and looks after our nation's children."

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